

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, PFOR, GY

SUBJECT: GOG REQUESTS ERTS/LANDSAT PHOTOS OF GUYANA OR ARRANGEMENTS
TO OBTAIN COVERAGE

1. SUMMARY: GOG HAVING DIFFICULTY OBTAINING LANDSTAT PHOTO
COVERAGE OF GUYANA AND SOME ELEMENTS APPARENTLY BELIEVE U.S.
IS WITHHOLDING PHOTOS FOR POLITICAL REASONS. WE REQUEST DEPARTMENT
CONTACT EROS ENTER BY TELEPHONE AND GIVE US RESPONSE BY CABLE
SO WE CAN HEAD OFF UNJUSTIFIED SUSPICION BEFORE IT SOLIDIFIES.
END SUMMARY.

2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. GUYANA GEOLOGICAL SURVEYS AND MINES
DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN SPORADICALLY ATTEMPTING FOR SOME MONTHS TO
OBTAIN ADDITIONAL LANDSTAT PHOTOS OF GUYANA OR FIND OUT HOW TO OBTAIN
ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE. IT OBTAINED PROMPT RESPONSE
LAST SEPTEMBER 15 FROM LEO BRACONNIER, ACTING CHIEF, USER SERVICES
OF DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR'S EROS DATA CENTER, SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH
DAKOTA, UNDER CONTROL NUMBER 50900099. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO
GEOLOGICAL SURVEYS AND
MINES DEPARTMENT, THE LIST OF AVAILABLE
PHOTOGRAPHS SUPPLIED BY BRACONNIER COMBINED WITH A LIST OF THOSE
ALREADY PURCHASED BY GUYANA SHOWED ONLY 4 OF THE 26 AVAILABLE
SCENES AS BEING PRIMARILY OF GUYANA. OF THE REMAINDER, 9 SHOW
ONLY SMALL PARTS OF GUYANA AND 13 WERE REPORTEDLY ENTIRELY OUTSIDE
GUYANA.

3. C.N. BARRON OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEYS AND MINES DEPARTMENT CLAIMS
THAT T.L. ERB OF CORNELL, AT THE 10TH INTER-GUYANA GEOLOGICAL
CONFERENCE AT BELEM, BRAZIL, PRESENTED PAPER WITH ONE LANDSTAT

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CONFERENCE AT BELEM, BRAZIL, PRESENTED PAPER WITH ONE LANDSTAT

PHOTO NOT ON LIST FROM EROS, AND SAID MORE GOOD COVERAGE OF GUYANA WAS AVAILABLE FROM EROS. BARRON AND MINISTER MINES AND ENERGY HUBERT JACK THEREFORE WONDER IF PHOTOS ARE BEING WITHHELD ON POLITICAL GROUNDS, DESPITE EMBASSY ASSURANCE THAT LANDSAT IS ENTIRELY UNCLASSIFIED PROGRAM.

4. TWO GUYANESE, ERWIN TELFER AND ALLAN ARCHER, WERE AT SIOUX CITY TO CONFER WITH EROS OFFICIALS IN DECEMBER. ACCORDING TO BARRON OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEYS AND MINES DEPARTMENT, UPON THEIR RETURN THEY WERE UNABLE TO RESOLVE QUESTION OF WHETHER ADDITIONAL PHOTOS WERE

AVAILABLE AS CLAIMED BY ERB OR, IF NOT, HOW GUYANA CAN OBTAIN ADDITIONAL COVERAGE.

5. GEOLOGICAL SURVEYS AND MINES DEPT IS REQUESTING, THROUGH EMBASSY:

A. WHETHER LANDSAT COVERAGE OF GUYANA ADDITIONAL TO COMPUTER LISTING OF PHOTOS SEPTEMBER 15 BY BRACONNIER OF EROS IS AVAILABLE (AS CLAIMED BY ERB). IF SO, PLEASE SEND NEW COMPUTER LISTING. IF NOT, WHY ARE ONLY 7 USABLE PHOTOS ENTIRELY OR LARGELY WITHIN GUYANA AVAILABLE?

B. WHAT PROCEDURES OR NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR GOG TO OBTAIN COVERAGE OF GUYANA OF SIMILAR STANDARD TO THAT AVAILABLE TO BRAZIL AND OTHER COUNTRIES? IS A FORMAL GOVT-TO-GOVT AGREEMENT NECESSARY EITHER TO OBTAIN FULL COVERAGE OF GUYANA DIRECT FROM EROS DATA CENTER OR FROM BRAZIL RECEIVING STATION BY SWITCHING ON THE BRAZILIAN FREQUENCY WHILE THE SATELLITE IS OVER GUYANA? (BRAZILIAN GEOLOGICAL AUTHORITIES REPORTEDLY TOLD BARRON THEY RECEIVE SATELLITE PHOTOS DIRECTLY TO THEIR STATION, BUT IT IS TURNED ON FOR THEM ONLY WHEN THE SATELLITE IS OVER BRAZIL, NOT OVER GUYANA.)

6 ACTION REQUEST: WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S TELEPHONIC INQUIRY OF EROS DATA CENTER AT SIOUX FALLS AND EARLY ADVICE TO EMBASSY SO WE CAN AT LEAST PRELIMINARILY RESPOND TO GEOLOGICAL SURVEYS AND MINES DEPARTMENT. END UNCLASSIFIED.

WITH PM BURNHAM ON DESTABILIZATION KICK AND WITH MINISTER MINES AND ENERGY HUBERT JACK ALREADY UNJUSTIFIABLY SUSPICIOUS THAT EROS IS DIDDLING GUYANA FOR POLITICAL REASONS, WE PREFER TO KEEP THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION PROGRAM FROM BECOMING YET ANOTHER SORE POINT IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. A QUICK AND RESPONSIVE REPLY MIGHT BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL AT THIS TIME.
KREBS

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